

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SES-02 SAA-01 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 /085 W
-----089093 131641Z /43

R 121050Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9957
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7305

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PINT, AF
SUBJ: RECALL OF PARCHAMIST AMBASSADORS

REF: KABUL 7170

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN ON SEPT 12, I ASKED WHAT SIGNIFICANCE WE SHOULD ATTACH TO THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR NOOR AHMADNOOR FROM WASHINGTON, AND OTHER PARCHAMIST AMBASSADORS. I NOTED WE HAD EXPEDITED THE AGREEMENT OF AMBASSADOR NOOR, AND WERE SURPRISED BY HIS RAPID RECALL. RECOGNIZING THAT ONE POSSIBILITY OF THE RECALL OF THE PARCHAMISTS MIGHT BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING ABOUT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE KHALQ AND PARCHAM FACTINONS IN AN EFFORT TO BROADEN THE PARTY'S POLITICAL BASE, I ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY POSITIONS IN MIND FOR THE REUTURN-
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ING AMBASSADORS.

2. AMIN REPLIED THAT THE RECALLS WERE CONNECTED WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAD NO RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER TO AFGHAN-U.S. RELATIONS OR AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID THERE WERE NO LONGER ANY PARCHAMISTS AND THE TERM IS NO LONGER USED. IN ANY

CASE, THERE WAS EVIDENCE LINKING SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE BEING RECALLED WITH THE PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. AMIN SAID THAT THE CASE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AMBASSADOR WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. IF THEY WERE INNOCENT OF ANY COMPLICITY IN THE PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THEY MIGHT FIND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT FORMER PARCHAMISTS WERE NOW LOYAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

3. CONTRARY TO WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD ME, HE INFORMED ME, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, THAT NOOR AHMAD NOOR AND BABRAK KARMAL WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT NONE OF THE AMBASSADORS HAS YET RETURNED TO KABUL.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE NATURE OF AMIN'S RESPONSES TO MY QUERIES, IT APPEARS WE CAN EXCLUDE -- FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST -- THAT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE KHALQ AND PARCHAM FACTIONS IS IN THE OFFING. INSTEAD, IT IS LIKELY THAT A CONTINUING EFFORT IS UNDERWAY TO DENIGRATE PARCHAMISTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, AND TO DEPRIVE SOME OF ITS LEADING MEMBERS OF BASES FROM WHICH THEY COULD OPERATE AGAINST THE PRESENT REGIME.

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5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MOVEMENTS OF AFGHAN AMBASSADORS WHO HAVE BEEN RECALLED. DUBS

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